

APPENDIX G

Wild and Scenic Rivers Management Objectives and Standards and Assessment Process

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATED WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

I. Wild Rivers

A. Objective: The management of wild river areas should give primary emphasis to protecting the values that make it outstandingly remarkable while providing river-related outdoor recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.

B. Management Standards: Allowable management practices might include construction of minor structures for such purposes as: improvement of fish and game habitat; grazing protection from fire, insects, or disease; and rehabilitation or stabilization of damaged resources, provided the area will remain natural appearing and the practices or structures will harmonize with the environment. Developments such as trail bridges, occasional fencing, natural-appearing water diversions, ditches, flow measurement or other water management devices, and similar facilities may be permitted, if they are unobtrusive and do not have a significant direct and adverse effect on the natural character of the river area. The following program management standards apply.

1. Forestry Practices: Cutting of trees will not be permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and for visitor safety or to protect the environment (such as control of fire). Timber outside the boundary, but within the visual corridors should, where feasible, be managed and harvested in a manner to provide special emphasis to visual quality.

2. Water Quality: Water quality will be maintained or improved to meet Federal criteria or federally approved State standards. (River management plans shall prescribe a process for monitoring water quality on a continuing basis).

3. Hydroelectric Power and Water Resource Development: No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be permitted. No new flood-control dams, levees, or other works allowed in the channel or river corridor. All water-supply dams and major diversions are prohibited. The natural appearance and essentially primitive character of the river area must be maintained. Federal agency groundwater development for range, wildlife, recreation or administrative facilities may be permitted, if there are no adverse affects on outstandingly remarkable river related values.

4. Mining: New mining claims and mineral leases are prohibited within ¼ mile of the river. Valid existing claims would not be abrogated and, subject to existing regulations (e.g., 43 CFR 3809) and any future regulations that the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe to protect the rivers included in the National System, existing mining activity would be allowed to continue. All mineral activity on federally administered land must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access will be permitted. Mining claims, subject to valid existing rights, within the wild river area boundary can be patented only

as to the mineral estate and not the surface estate (subject to proof of discovery prior to the effective date of designation).

5. Road and Trail Construction: No construction of new roads, trails, or other provisions for overland motorized travel would be permitted within the river corridor. A few inconspicuous roads or unobtrusive trail bridges leading to the boundary of the river area may be permitted.

6. Recreation Facilities: Major public-use areas, such as campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters are located outside wild river areas. Simple comfort and convenience facilities such as toilets, tables, fireplaces, shelters, and refuse containers may be provided as necessary within the river area. These should harmonize with the surroundings. Unobtrusive hiking and horseback riding trail bridges could be allowed on tributaries but would not normally cross the designed river.

7. Public Use and Access: Recreation use including, but not limited to, hiking, fishing, and boating is encouraged in wild river areas to the extent consistent with the protection of the river environment. Public use and access may be regulated and distributed where necessary to protect and enhance wild river values.

8. Rights-of-Way: New transmission lines, natural gas lines, water lines, etc., are discouraged unless specifically prohibited outright by other plans, orders or laws. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are unavoidable, locations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on wild river area related values and fully evaluated during the site selection process.

9. Motorized Travel: Motorized travel on land or water could be permitted but it is generally not compatible with this river classification. Normally, motorized use will be prohibited in a wild river area. Prescriptions for management of motorized use may allow for search and rescue and other emergency situations.

II. Scenic Rivers

A. Management Objective: Management of scenic river areas should maintain and provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a near-natural setting. The basic distinctions between a "wild" and a "scenic" river area are the degree of development, types of land use, and road accessibility. In general, a wide range of agricultural, water management, silvicultural, and other practices could be compatible with scenic river values, providing such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment.

B. Management Standards: The same considerations set forth for wild river areas should be considered, except that motorized vehicle use may, in some cases, be appropriate and that development of larger scale public-use facilities within the river area, such as moderate-sized campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters would be compatible if such facilities were screened from the river. The following program management standards apply.

1. **Forest Practices:** Silvicultural practices including timber harvesting could be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area should be maintained in its near-natural condition. Timber outside the boundary, but within the visual seen area, should be managed and harvested in a manner which provides special emphasis on visual quality. Preferably, reestablishment of tree cover would be through natural revegetation. Cutting of dead and down materials for fuelwood should be limited. Where necessary, restrictions on use of wood for fuel may be prescribed.

2. **Water Quality:** Water quality will be maintained or improved to meet Federal criteria or federally approved State standards. (River management plans shall prescribe a process for monitoring water quality on continuing basis.)

3. **Hydroelectric Power and Water Resource Development:** No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be permitted. Flood-control dams and levees would be prohibited. All water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited. Maintenance of existing facilities and construction of some new structures would be permitted provided that the area remains natural in appearance and the practices or structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.

4. **Mining:** Subject to existing regulations (e.g., 43 CFR 3809) and any future regulations that the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims are allowed and mineral leases can be allowed. All mineral activity on federally administered land must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, water sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access will be permitted. Mining claims within the scenic river area boundary can be patented only as to the mineral estate and not the surface estate.

5. **Road and Trail Construction:** Roads or trails may occasionally bridge the river area and short stretches of conspicuous or long stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads could be allowed. Maintenance of existing roads and trails, and any new roads or trails, will be based on the type of use for which the roads/trails are constructed and the type of use that will occur in the river area.

6. **Agricultural Practices and Livestock Grazing:** In comparison to wild river areas, a wider range of agricultural and livestock grazing uses is permitted to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are not considered as an intrusion of the "largely primitive" nature of scenic corridors as long as there is not a substantial adverse effect on the natural-like appearance of the river area.

7. **Recreation Facilities:** Larger scale public-use facilities, such as moderate-sized campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters are allowed if such facilities are screened from the river.

8. **Public Use and Access:** Recreation use including, but not limited to; hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating is encouraged in scenic river areas to the extent consistent

with the protection of the river environment. Public use and access may be regulated and distributed where necessary to protect and enhance scenic river values.

9. Rights-of-Way: New transmission lines, natural gas lines, etc., are discouraged unless specifically prohibited outright by other plans, orders or laws. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are unavoidable, locations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic river area related values and fully evaluated during the site selection process.

10. Motorized Travel: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted to protect river values. Prescriptions for management of motorized use may allow for search and rescue and other emergency situations.

III. Recreational River Areas

A. Management Objective: Management of recreational river areas should give primary emphasis to protecting the values which make it outstandingly remarkable while providing river-related outdoor recreation opportunities in a recreational setting. Management of recreational river areas should maintain and provide outdoor recreation opportunities. The basic distinctions between a "scenic" and a "recreational" river area are the degree of access, extent of shoreline development, historical impoundment or diversion, and types of land use. In general, a wide range of agricultural, water management, silvicultural, and other practices are compatible with recreational river values, providing such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment.

B. Management Standards: Recreation facilities may be established in proximity to the river, although recreational river classification does not require extensive recreational development. Recreational facilities may still be kept to a minimum, with visitor services provided outside the river area. Future construction of impoundments, diversions, straightening, riprapping, and other modification of the waterway or adjacent lands would not be permitted except in instances where such developments would not have a direct and adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The following program management standards apply.

1. Forestry Practices: Forestry practices including timber harvesting would be allowed under standard restrictions to avoid adverse effects on the river environment and its associated values.

2. Water Quality: Water quality will be maintained or improved to meet Federal criteria or federally approved State standards. (River management plans shall prescribe a process for monitoring water quality on a continuing basis.)

3. Hydroelectric Power and Water Resource Development: No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be permitted. Existing low dams, diversion works, rip rap, and other minor structures may be maintained provided the waterway remains

generally natural in appearance. New structures may be allowed provided that the area remains generally natural in appearance and the structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.

4. **Mining:** Subject to existing regulations (e.g., 43 CFR 3809) and any future regulations that the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe to protect values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims are allowed and existing operations are allowed to continue. All mineral activity on federally administered land must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, water sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access will be permitted. Mining claims within the recreational river area boundary can be patented only as to the mineral estate and not the surface estate.

5. **Road and Trail Construction:** Existing parallel roads can be maintained on one or both river banks. There can be several bridge crossings and numerous river access points. Roads, trails, and visitor areas must conform to construction and maintenance standards and be free of recognized hazards.

6. **Agricultural Practices and Livestock Grazing:** In comparison to scenic river areas, lands may be managed for a full range of agriculture and livestock grazing uses, consistent with current practices.

7. **Recreation Facilities:** Interpretive centers, administrative headquarters, campgrounds, and picnic areas may be established in proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development.

8. **Public Use and Access:** Recreation use including, but not limited to, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating is encouraged in recreational river areas to the extent consistent with the protection of the river environment. Public use and access may be regulated and distributed where necessary to protect and enhance recreational river values. Any new structures must meet established safety and health standards or in their absence be free of any recognized hazard.

9. **Rights-of-Way:** New transmission lines, natural gas lines, water lines, etc., are discouraged unless specifically prohibited outright by other plans, orders and laws. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are unavoidable, locations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on recreational river area related values and fully evaluated during the site selection process.

10. **Motorized Travel:** Motorized travel on land will generally be permitted, on existing roads. Controls will usually be similar to that of surrounding lands. Motorized travel on water will be in accordance with existing regulations or restrictions.

IV. Management Objectives Common to Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers

A. **Fire Protection and Suppression:** Management and suppression of fires within a designated river area will be carried out in a manner compatible with contiguous Federal lands. On wildfires, suppression methods will be used that minimize long term impacts on the river and

river area. Presuppression and prevention activities will be conducted in a manner which reflects management objectives for the specific river segment. Prescribed fire may be used to maintain or restore ecological condition or meet objectives of the river plan.

B. Insects, Diseases, and Noxious Weeds: The control of forest and rangeland pests, diseases, and noxious weed infestations will be carried out in a manner compatible with the intent of the Act and management objectives of contiguous Federal lands.

C. Cultural Resources: Historic prehistoric resource sites will be identified, evaluated and protected in a manner compatible with the management objectives of the river and in accordance with applicable regulations and policies. Where appropriate, historic or prehistoric sites will be stabilized, enhanced, and interpreted.

D. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement: The construction and maintenance of minor structures for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat are acceptable provided they do not affect the free flowing characteristics of the river, are compatible with the classification, that the area remains natural in appearance and the practices or structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.

E. Water Rights: In the process of evaluating river segments, authorizing officials are held to established principles of law with respect to water rights. Under provisions of Section 13 of the Act, as well as other statutes, river studies shall not interfere (except for licenses under Sec. 7(b) of the Act, pertaining to Sec. 5(a) WSR river studies) with existing rights, including the right of access, with respect to the beds of navigable streams, tributaries, or river segments. In addition, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Federal Power Act, the BLM has permitting and conditioning authorities for any proposed projects which might be incompatible with any river or other identified resource values.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The review of wild and scenic values within the Northeast NPR-A Planning Area is being completed using a three-step planning process.

Step 1—Identification. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) defines a river as “a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, stream, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.” Ordinarily, if a river or river segment is identified in an official publication or list of another agency or recognized river support organization, and if BLM-administered lands are located within a quarter of a mile of the identified river’s ordinary high-water mark, a case can be made to select it for consideration. Additionally, criteria used in the 1978 105(c) studies supplemented BLM’s identification process. The BLM identified 18 rivers in the planning area for evaluation in this IAP/EIS.

Step 2—Eligibility Determination. Each identified river segment must be evaluated to determine whether or not it is eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System (WSRS). To be eligible, a river segment must be “free-flowing” and must possess at least one “outstandingly remarkable value.”

1. **Free Flowing:** Free flowing is defined by Section 16(b) of the WSRA as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.”

2. **Outstandingly Remarkable Values:** Section 1(b) of the WSRA requires that for a river segment to be eligible for inclusion in the WSRS, it must possess one or more of the following outstandingly remarkable values: scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.

Based on these criteria, the Colville River has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the WSRS.

Step 3—Suitability Analysis. Based on the public comments received during the Draft IAP/EIS comment period, BLM will further evaluate the Colville River to determine whether it would be suitable for inclusion in the WSRS. The factors considered in a suitability determination are based on Section 4(a) of the WSRA and are elaborated on in Bureau Manual 8351A. These factors are:

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area worthy of addition to the WSRS;
2. Land ownership and associated or incompatible uses. The Bureau Manual states that: “In situations where there is limited public lands administered by the BLM. . .it may be difficult to ensure. . .outstandingly remarkable values could be properly maintained. . . Accordingly, for those situations where the BLM is unable to protect or maintain any identified outstandingly remarkable values, or through other mechanisms (existing or potential), river segments may be determined suitable only if the entity with land use planning responsibility supports the finding and commits to assisting the BLM in protecting the identified river values.” The Manual goes on

to state that: “. . .there might be existing or future opportunities for the BLM to acquire river shoreline or where landowners are willing to donate, exchange, transfer, assign, sell, or sign an easement”;

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed in the area were included in the WSRS, and the values that could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the WSRS;
4. Interest in designation or nondesignation, including the extent to which the administration of the river, including the costs thereof, may be shared by State, local, or other agencies or individuals;
5. Estimated costs of acquiring lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if it is added to the WSRS; and
6. The ability of the BLM to manage and/or protect the river area as a wild and scenic river, or other mechanisms (existing and potential) to protect identified values other than wild and scenic river designation.

A finding of nonsuitability may be based on one or a combination of these factors.

Boundary Identification: The final boundary determination generally is completed in the river management plan, which must be completed within 3 years of designation. A corridor boundary area extends the length of the identified river segment and includes the river area, its immediate environment, and lands within an average of half a mile (no more than 640 acres per river mile) of ordinary high water on each bank.